



Durham Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 16, Intergovernmental Coordination Element

**Durham City-County Planning Department
Public Hearing Draft, June 24, 2004**

The Durham Comprehensive Plan

Contents

Chapter 1.	Introduction and Administration Element
Chapter 2.	Land Use Element
Chapter 3.	Housing Element
Chapter 4.	Community Character and Design Element
Chapter 5.	Historic Preservation Element
Chapter 6.	Economic Development Element
Chapter 7.	Conservation and Environment Element
Chapter 8.	Transportation Element
Chapter 9.	Water and Wastewater Element
Chapter 10.	Parks and Recreation Element
Chapter 11.	Schools Element
Chapter 12.	Public Safety Element
Chapter 13.	Solid Waste Element
Chapter 14.	Libraries Element
Chapter 15.	Capital Improvements Element
Chapter 16.	Intergovernmental Coordination Element
Chapter 17.	Appendices

Chapter 16, Intergovernmental Coordination Element

Chapter Contents

Summary of Issues2

Goal 16.1, Planning and Development Coordination2

Objective 16.1.1. City and County Coordination.....3

Objective 16.1.2. Coordination with Other Jurisdictions.....3

Objective 16.1.3. Coordination on Transportation Issues4

Objective 16.1.4. Coordination on Environmental Issues.....5

Objective 16.1.5. Coordination on Public Facilities and Services.....5

Intergovernmental Coordination Element



Goals ***Goal 16.1 Planning and Development Cooperation***

The Research Triangle Region is a collection of individual towns, cities, and counties, each with their own unique character and special places. While the local governments are separate jurisdictions, they provide similar governmental services. Each recognized that the Triangle Region is a popular destination for people and businesses migrating in. Each is faced with concerns about the most efficient way to expand facilities and services to meet the needs of expected future population. Each is faced with challenges of growing with nearby neighbors, weaving together the fabric of community at their and their neighbors' edges. Local governments are learning that coordination of land development patterns and cooperation in service provision can offer mutual benefits.

Coordination presently occurs through several vehicles:

- The Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) is a voluntary organization of municipal and county governments in North Carolina's Region J, including the counties of Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange and Wake. The TJCOG works to meet the Region's needs in a wide range of areas, from land use, transportation, housing and environmental planning, to programs for the aging and information services.
- Transportation planning takes place through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO includes the following seven member governments and 14 agencies and organizations: the City of Durham, the Town of Carrboro, the Town of Chapel Hill, the Town of Hillsborough, Durham County, Orange County, Chatham County, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the US Federal Highway Administration, the US Federal Transit Administration, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Triangle J Council of Governments, the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, the Triangle Transit Authority, Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina Central University,

Carolina Trailways, the Research Triangle Park and the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina.

- The Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) was created to plan, finance, organize and operate a public transportation system for the Research Triangle area. Its main program areas include regional bus service, a ridesharing program, and regional transit planning. TTA's Mission is to plan, facilitate, and promote, for the Greater Triangle Community, an affordable, safe and secure customer-oriented public transportation network that provides mobility, promotes economic opportunities, and protects the environment.
- The Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) was formed to provide an ongoing forum for cooperation on water quality protection and water resource planning and management within the 770 square mile watershed. The eight municipalities, six counties, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the watershed voluntarily formed the Association. The Mission of the UNRBA is to preserve the water quality of the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative and cost-effective pollution reduction strategies, and to constitute a forum to cooperate on water supply issues within the Upper Neuse River Basin.
- Raleigh-Durham International Airport is governed by the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority. The Airport Authority is a governmental body responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of the Airport. The City of Durham and Durham County shall continue their active support for and participation in the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority.

Summary of Issues

1. **Regional Planning.** Over the past few years, Triangle local governments have made great strides in opening and maintaining communications about matters of mutual interest. However, the Triangle Region needs to engage in more extensive regional planning to better address common problems related to growth and development. Regional cooperation could expand in the areas of transportation planning, recreation and open space planning, water supply and wastewater treatment, among others.

Goal 16.1, Planning and Development Coordination

Coordinate government planning and decisions about land use, transportation and public services and facilities between the City of Durham and Durham County, and

surrounding cities, town and counties in order to accomplish the goals of the Durham Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 16.1.1. City and County Coordination

Coordinate the land use planning effort of the City and County.

Policy 16.1.1a. Joint Planning Commission. The City and County shall continue to support the Durham Planning Commission by designating it as the planning advisory body to the City and the County.

Policy 16.1.1b. Joint Board of Adjustment. The City and County shall continue to support the joint Board of Adjustment (BOA), which shall exercise all the powers and duties authorized under North Carolina General Statutes, all applicable special enabling legislation, and the Unified Development Ordinance.

Policy 16.1.1c. City-County Planning Department. The City and County shall continue to support a joint Durham Planning Agency to act as the administrative body for performing the professional planning functions and providing information, reports, and recommendations to the Planning Commission, City and County Managers and Governing Bodies.

Policy 16.1.1d. Historic Preservation Commission. The City and County shall continue to support the Durham Historic Preservation Commission as an advisory body to the City and the County.

Policy 16.1.1e. Appearance Commission. The City and County shall continue to support the Durham Appearance Commission as an advisory body to the City and the County.

Policy 16.1.1f. Satellite Annexation Agreement. The City Council and the County Board of Commissioners shall consider an agreement on satellite annexations.

Objective 16.1.2. Coordination with Other Jurisdictions

Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions regarding proposals for new development near common borders in order to foster and maintain a system of sound land use planning and regulation.

Policy 16.1.2a. Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination. The City and County shall continue coordination with the surrounding jurisdictions of Cary, Chapel Hill, Morrisville, Raleigh Orange County, and Wake County in planning efforts, ensuring opportunities to review and comment on land use and development proposals within the defined areas of interest of these jurisdictions. The objectives of the coordination are to:

- i. Seek compatible uses of land and natural resources;
- ii. Achieve a smooth transition between areas of development within each jurisdiction;

- iii. Provide an appropriate entryway into each jurisdiction from the other;
- iv. Encourage orderly development and the efficient delivery of urban services which will maintain and enhance property values in each jurisdiction; and
- v. Provide appropriate connectivity between jurisdictions.

Policy 16.1.2b. Granville, Person and Chatham Counties. The City-County Planning Department shall explore and propose planning coordination and information sharing arrangements with Granville, Person, and Chatham Counties.

Policy 16.1.2c. General Support for the Triangle J Council of Governments. The City and County shall support and participate in the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG).

Policy 16.1.2d. TJCOG Regional Planning Projects and Activities. The City and County shall participate in multi-jurisdictional regional planning projects and activities that are administered by the Triangle J Council of Governments.

Objective 16.1.3. Coordination on Transportation Issues

Coordinate with regional transportation agencies regarding transportation planning and service provision.

Policy 16.1.3a. Support for the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) shall be responsible for carrying out the transportation planning process in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Urban Area. The City and County shall continue their participation in the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Policy 16.1.3b. The Triangle Transit Authority. The City and County shall continue their active support for and participation in the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA), providing opportunities for TTA to comment on proposed zoning changes and land use amendments regarding their impact on transportation issues. The City and County shall continue their active involvement in planning for future regional mass transit phases.

Policy 16.1.3c. Regional Rail System, Phase I. The City and County shall continue efforts to implement the Regional Rail System by designating appropriate development patterns, including public improvements that are supportive of mass transit in the vicinity of designated transit stations.

Policy 16.1.3d. Support for the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority. The City and County shall support and participate in the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, providing opportunities for the Airport Authority to comment on proposed zoning changes and land use amendments regarding their impact on the Airport.

Triangle GreenPrint

The Triangle GreenPrint Project is an initiative to help the Triangle protect a linked network of green space as the region grows. The GreenPrint is helping communities, land management organizations, and helping the general public maximize its investments in green space protection. The TJCOG, the Triangle Land Conservancy, and the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources sponsor the GreenPrint project.

Policy 16.1.3e. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission.

The City and County shall continue to support the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission as an advisory body to the City and the County promoting bicycle and pedestrian opportunities.

Objective 16.1.4. Coordination on Environmental Issues

Coordinate with regional agencies and adjacent jurisdictions regarding natural resource and environmental protection efforts.

Policy 16.1.4a. The Upper Neuse River Basin Association. The City and County shall continue their active support for and participation in the Upper Neuse River Basin Association.

Policy 16.1.4b. Triangle GreenPrint. The City and County shall continue their support for the Triangle GreenPrint project.

Policy 16.1.4c. Little River Regional Park. Durham County shall continue to cooperate with Orange County to develop and operate the Little River Regional Park.

Policy 16.1.4d. Durham Open Space and Trails Commission. The City and County shall continue to support the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission as an advisory body to the City and the County promoting open space and trails issues.

Policy 16.1.4e. Environmental Affairs Board. The City and County shall continue to support the Durham Environmental Affairs Board as an advisory body to the City and the County promoting environmental issues.

Policy 16.1.4f. Regional Cooperation on Air Quality. The City and County shall continue to work with other jurisdictions, governmental agencies, and regional organizations to address air quality issues.

Policy 16.1.4g. Local Cooperation on Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The City and County shall continue to work with each other and with other regional partners to address issues related to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Objective 16.1.5. Coordination on Public Facilities and Services

Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions regarding the provision of public services and facilities at common borders to assure the most effective and efficient service delivery to the residents of Durham and adjacent jurisdictions.

Policy 16.1.5a. Annexation and Service Area Agreements. The City Public Works Department shall maintain and update, as needed, the annexation and service area agreements between the City of Durham, the Town of Chapel Hill, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), the City of Raleigh the Town of Cary, the Town of Hillsborough, and the Town of Morrisville.

Policy 16.1.5b. Joint Capital Improvements Planning. The City, County, and Durham Public Schools shall continue their coordination on capital improvements plans, including examining opportunities for co-locating facilities.

Policy 16.1.5c. Solid Waste Disposal Alternatives. The City Solid Waste Management Department shall investigate, alone or with other jurisdictions in the Region, alternatives for solid waste disposal.

